

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, and 22-37 are pending in the present application, of which Claim 33 is allowed. Applicants, by this writing, cancel Claims 3, 4, 7, and 8 without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter disclosed therein, amend Claims 1 and 24, and add Claims 34-37 for consideration. The basis for the foregoing amendments and support for the new claims may be found throughout the written description, drawings, and claims as originally filed and as such, new matter has been presented. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Klupt (U.S. Pat. No. 5,301,381). Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 25, and 32 stand rejected as being anticipated by Sloan (U.S. Pat. No. 3,977,084). Claims 1 and 32 stand rejected as being anticipated by Ra (U.S. Pat. No. 5,680,666). Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 9 stand rejected as being anticipated by Pickering (U.S. Pat. No. 3,447,178). These rejections are respectfully rendered moot.

Applicant initially reminds the Examiner of MPEP §706.02. In this regard, prior art rejections should ordinarily be confined strictly to the best available art and merely cumulative rejections should be avoided.

Applicants respectfully submit that each of the references cited by the Examiner fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of the present claims.

With respect to Klupt, Applicants submit that Klupt does not disclose a liquid delivery system operable independently from the motor and having a reservoir, a valve, and at least one fluid conduit, the reservoir being coupled to the housing and operable for storing a pressurized fluid therein.

By way of contrast, Applicants submit that Klupt discloses a toothbrush system with a bellows-type liquid container (28) that expands and contracts to accommodate a variable volume of liquid in the container (28). See Col. 5, Ins. 10-14. A liquid delivery mechanism (46) includes, among other things, a one-way valve member (56) and a piston member (60) driven by a drive mechanism (38) and displaceable in a piston chamber (62). During a "forward" movement of the piston member (60), liquid is dispensed from the liquid container (28) to the piston chamber (62) when a pressure differential is created between the piston chamber (62) and the liquid container (28) as the drive mechanism (38) reciprocates the piston member (60). See Col. 6, Ins. 3-23. During a "reverse" movement of the piston member (60), the one-way valve member (56) prevents liquid from flowing from the piston chamber (62) to the liquid container by blocking the liquid conduit (48). In other words, Klupt operates as a reciprocating pump that creates alternating negative and positive pressures within the piston chamber (62) to draw liquid into and then eject liquid from the piston chamber (62). As Klupt discloses the valve member (56) preventing the liquid container (28) from being pressurized during the "forward" or the "reverse" strokes and is silent as to the liquid container being pressurized, Klupt does not disclose or suggest a reservoir operable for storing a pressurized fluid therein.

With respect to Sloan, Applicants submit that Sloan does not disclose a liquid delivery system having a liquid delivery system operable independently from the motor. Applicants also submit that Sloan does not disclose a liquid delivery system having a nozzle that is operable for directing a dispensed fluid obliquely relative to an axis of rotation of a cleaning attachment and having at least one aperture being operable for dispersing the fluid dispensed from the liquid delivery system.

In contrast, Applicants submit that Sloan discloses a dental hygienic device having a power and dentifrice supply assembly (138) that is controlled by a switch (148). See Col. 6, Ins. 31-36. The switch (148) includes a Hart mechanism (150) that simultaneously provides on-off switch control and control of a dentifrice control valve. The control valve operates in conjunction

with the motor on-off switch (148). See Col. 8, lns. 50-52. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Sloan does not disclose or suggest a liquid delivery system operable independently from the motor.

Applicants submit that Sloan also discloses a prophylactic cup (38) rotated by a motor (30) and having a central channel (234) extending therethrough. A dentifrice is supplied from a dentifrice cartridge (46) through the central channel (234). As illustrated in Figure 10, however, the central channel (234) is coincident with the rotational axis of the prophylactic cup (38) and is a single hollow channel. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Sloan does not disclose or suggest that the nozzle that is operable for directing a dispensed fluid obliquely relative to an axis of rotation of a cleaning attachment and has at least one aperture being operable for dispersing the fluid dispensed from the liquid delivery system.

With respect to Ra, Applicants submit that Ra does not disclose a liquid delivery system having a reservoir operable for storing a pressurized fluid therein. Applicants also submit that Ra does not disclose a liquid delivery system having a nozzle that is operable for directing a dispensed fluid obliquely relative to an axis of rotation of a cleaning attachment.

In contrast, Applicants submit that Ra discloses an automatic polishing device having a liquid cartridge (3A) disposed in a casing (1). The device permits liquid to be dispensed from the cartridge (3A) when sufficient pressure is applied to a polishing head (10) to overcome the force of a spring (17) that biases a spring loaded valve toward a closed position. Applicants submit that Ra does not disclose or suggest that the liquid cartridge (3A) is pressurized.

Applicants also submit that Ra discloses that the polishing fluid is directed to the polishing head (10) through a hollow shaft (15), which is rotated by a motor (7). The fluid is dispensed from an end of the hollow shaft (15) along an axis coincident to an axis of rotation of the polishing head (10). Alternatively, the fluid is dispensed from passages (32) formed perpendicularly to the axis of rotation. See Fig. 2. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Ra does not disclose or suggest that the

nozzle that is operable for directing a dispensed fluid obliquely relative to an axis of rotation of a cleaning attachment.

With respect to Pickering, Applicants submit that Pickering does not disclose or suggest a nozzle that is operable for directing a dispensed fluid obliquely relative to an axis of rotation of a cleaning attachment and has at least one aperture being operable for dispersing the fluid dispensed from the liquid delivery system.

In contrast, Applicants submit that Pickering discloses an electric toothbrush having a rotary toothbrush member (21) driven by a motor (31). Toothpaste stored in a toothpaste container (50) can be delivered to the rotary member (21) through a conduit (57). As illustrated in Figure 2, the conduit (57) is turned at the end to dispense the toothpaste onto the rotary member (50) perpendicularly relative to the axis of rotation of the rotary member (21). In addition, the end of the conduit (57) proximate to the rotary member (50) is only a hollow tube that simply allows the toothpaste to pass through. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Pickering does not disclose or suggest a nozzle that is operable for directing a dispensed fluid obliquely relative to an axis of rotation of a cleaning attachment and has at least one aperture being operable for dispersing the fluid dispensed from the liquid delivery system.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that now-amended Claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Similarly, Applicants submit that Claims 2, 5, 6, 9, and 22-32, which depend from Claim 1, are also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner also reconsider and withdraw the rejections of Claims 2, 5, 6, 9, and 22-32.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 9, 26, 27, and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Downes (U.S. Pat. No. 3,892,004) in view of Sloan. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Downes and Sloan fails to teach or suggest every element of the present claims, as Downes does not disclose the deficiencies of Sloan as discussed above.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that now-amended Claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Similarly, Applicants submit that Claims 9, 26, 27, and 32, which depend from Claim 1, are also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner also reconsider and withdraw the rejections of Claims 9, 26, 27, and 32.

Claims 1 and 22-24 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Trelc et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 3,443,272) in view of Downes and Lanusse (U.S. Pat. No. 3,943,591). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that now-amended Claim 1 has rendered this rejection moot, as Trelc et al. fails to teach or suggest every element of the amended claim. More specifically, Trelc et al. do not disclose a liquid delivery system operable independently from the motor.

In contrast, Applicants submit that Trelc et al. disclose an upholstery cleaner having a rotary brush (17) driven by a motor (12). The motor (12) is actuated by a three-position slide switch (58). In a first position, the motor (12) is de-energized. In a second position, the motor (12) is energized but fluid is not delivered to the brush (17). See Col. 3, lns. 24-26. In a third position, the motor (17) is energized and fluid is delivered to the brush (17). See Col. 3, lns. 27-29. As the brush (17) does not operate independently from the motor (12) in any of the three positions of the switch (58), Applicants submit that Trelc et al. do not disclose a liquid delivery system operable independently from the motor.

Applicants also submit that the deficiency of Trelc et al. is not cured by combining Trelc et al. with Downes or Lanusse, either independently or in combination. Lanusse is silent with respect to a liquid system operable independently from the motor. Further, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine Sloan with Trelc et al., as Trelc et al. is

specifically directed toward a cleaning device selectable between three positions and controlled by a single knob or control. See Col. 1, Ins. 55-57 and Claim 1.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that now-amended Claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Similarly, Applicants submit that Claims 22-24, which depend from Claim 1, are also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner also reconsider and withdraw the rejections of Claims 22-24.

NEWLY PRESENTED CLAIMS

Applicants have added Claims 34-37 for the Examiner's consideration. Applicants respectfully submit that support for Claims 34-37 can be found throughout the specification and drawings as originally filed and as such, no new matter has been presented.

Applicants respectfully submit Claim 34 is in condition for allowance, as Claim 34 depends from Claim 1, which Applicants believe to be in condition for allowance based on the previous remarks.

Applicants also submit that the cited art of record does not disclose or suggest every element of Claim 35. More specifically, the cited art of record does not disclose or suggest a cleaning apparatus having a first handle extending from a housing, a second handle removably coupled to the housing and extending obliquely relative the first handle, and a liquid delivery system having a reservoir, a valve, a nozzle, and at least one fluid conduit, wherein the reservoir is coupled to the housing and extends from the housing generally parallel to the handle, the reservoir is operable for storing a pressurized fluid therein, the valve is at least partially housed in the housing and selectively operable to permit fluid communication between the reservoir and the nozzle, and the nozzle is coupled to the housing and operable for dispersing the fluid as the fluid is dispensed from the liquid delivery system.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 35 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants also submit that Claims 36-37, which depend from Claim 35, are also in condition for allowance.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of Claim 33.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,



By:

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